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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/896,388	06/28/2001	Joachim P. Walser	020431.0755	1011
53184	7590	06/04/2007	EXAMINER	
i2 TECHNOLOGIES US, INC. ONE i2 PLACE, 11701 LUNA ROAD DALLAS, TX 75234			SHERR, CRISTINA O	
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		3621		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/896,388	WALSER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Cristina Owen Sherr	3621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 March 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-5, 7-13 and 15-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5, 7-13, and 15-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to applicant's amendment filed March 16, 2007. Claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 12, 15, 17, 20, and 25 have been amended. Claims 1-5, 7-13, and 15-25 are currently pending in this case.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, see Applicant's Amendment, filed March 16, 2007, with respect to the Section 112, par 2 rejection of claims 1-5, 7-13, and 15-25, as currently amended, have been fully considered and are persuasive. The Section 112, par 2 rejection of claims 1-5, 7-13, and 15-25 has been withdrawn.

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to the section 103 rejection of claims 1-5, 7-13, and 15-25 filed March 16, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

4. Applicant argues, with respect to claims 1, 9, 17 and 25 that Maeda fails to teach, suggest or disclose a "transition graph generator operable to generate a transition graph comprising a plurality of paths, each path comprising a plurality of states, each state having a price value, an inventory value, and a state value".

5. Examiner respectfully disagrees and directs attention to Maeda wherein "the predicted sale by item is calculated by substituting the registered price inputted by the user, into the function and the function parameters selected in the step 1003 in FIG. 2." (col 6 ln 43-46). It is obvious that the user may input any beginning price, whether it is called inventory price or registered price, in order to calculate the sale price.

6. Further, in Maeda " The terminology "price change pattern" used herein means a change pattern between the registered price at a predetermined day and the price at the previous day. If the registered price and the previous day's price are respectively \$78 and \$110, the price change pattern has a downward tendency. If the registered price is equal to the previous day's price, the price change pattern has a constant tendency. If the registered price and the previous day's price are respectively \$110 and \$78, the price change pattern has an upward tendency." (col 8 ln ln 38-49) Thus many different patters or path are generated for the prices of items. All these various paths are graphed in Maeda (see, e.g. fig 9).

7. Applicant further makes a series of arguments with respect to Official Notice. Since at no point does the last Office Action, mailed 12/18/06, mention Official Notice, those arguments are not persuasive.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 1-5, 7-13, and 15-25 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda et al (US 5,377,095).

10. Regarding claim 1 –

Maeda discloses a method for generating a price schedule for one or more products, the method comprising:

generating a transition graph comprising a plurality of paths, each path comprising a plurality of states, each state having a price value, an inventory value, and a state value, the transition graph being generated by repeating the following for a plurality of stages until a final stage is reached (e.g. fig 9 col 6 ln 48-58);

determining the price value of a successor state (e.g. fig. 9);

calculating the inventory value of the successor state using the price value and the inventory value of a predecessor state (e.g. col 1 ln 30 – col 2 ln 35); and calculating the state value of the successor state using the price value and the inventory value of the predecessor state (e.g. col 1 ln 40-50);

selecting an optimal path according to the state values of the states; and determining a price schedule from the optimal path (e.g. col 2 ln 2-22).

11. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to adapt Maeda to obtain the instant application in order to achieve greater flexibility in pricing according to the market.

12. Regarding claims 2-5-

Maeda discloses a method comprising quantizing the inventory value of each successor state; further comprising quantizing the price value of each successor state; wherein selecting the optimal path according to the state values comprises determining a state at the final stage having an optimal state value; and determining a path comprising a state of an initial stage and the state having the optimal state value; and further comprising eliminating a successor state in response to a constraint (e.g. col 12 ln 30-

40). As above, rather than "inventory" Maeda uses "cost". Nevertheless, these terms are functionally equivalent in the context of the invention.

13. As above, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to adapt Maeda to obtain the instant application in order to achieve greater flexibility in pricing according to the market.

14. Regarding claims 7-8 –

Maeda discloses a method wherein each state has a certainty value; and selecting the optimal path comprises determining a state at the final stage having a certainty value of a predetermined value; further comprising: defining a plurality of locations; estimating a demand forecast for the locations; calculating an expected number of unrealized sales at each location; adjusting the demand forecast in response to the expected number; determining a sales forecast from the demand forecast; and adjusting the inventory value of the successor state in response to the sales forecast (e.g. col 2 ln 3-17).

15. As above, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to adapt Maeda to obtain the instant application in order to achieve greater flexibility in pricing according to the market.

16. Claim 9-13 and 15-25 are rejected under the same criteria as claims 1-5 and 7-8.

17. Examiner's note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant.

Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may be applied as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the

responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Conclusion

- 18. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).
19. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.
20. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cristina Owen Sherr whose telephone number is 571-272-6711. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00 Monday through Friday.
21. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew J. Fischer can be reached on 571-272-6779. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3621

22. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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